RETURN TO FORT MCMURRAY

'IT'S HOME'

Couple among first in phased re-entry after evacuation

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Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016

High 25°C/Low 15°C More sunshine

THE HOUSE OF ALL

Ottawa church turning into community hub

metroNEWS

Leanne Moussa, co-owner along with other local residents of the All Saints Anglican Church, stands in the main part of the church during a book launch reception in Ottawa last Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transit bill 'unbearable'

ASIAN FEST

Organizers scramble to pay $18K as part of Landsdowne deal

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Asian Fest organizers knew from the start they'd have to pay for extra transit, OC Transpo officials said Tuesday.

Simon Huang, program co-ordinator for the Ottawa Asian Fest at Lansdowne Park, said Monday that organizers were surprised two weeks ago by "an unbearable cost" for extra buses to its event June 17-19.

The "ballpark figure" is $18,000 — nearly a third of the festival's $65,000 budget. The board of directors will eat the cost, Huang said.

But OC Transpo's Pat Scrimgeour said that was the deal all along: Since Lansdowne opened, any event that attracts more than 5,000 people has to cover any extra transit OC Transpo provides.

"We're just applying the same rules," Scrimgeour said.

For concerts and sporting events, transit is built right into the tickets, and holders get free rides to and from the park.

But Asian Fest is free.

"It kind of seems like OC Transpo is double charging," Huang said.

Scrimgeour said it's up to organizers "to decide how they cover the costs of all aspects of their event."

Outside of Lansdowne, major festivals don't seem particularly worried about an unexpected bill.

Holly Tarrison, executive director for HOPE Volleyball Summerfest at Mooney's Bay, said her group charters private shuttles.

"We don't see there's an increase in OC Transpo service for us," she said.

Same goes for the Lebanese Festival, said spokesperson Ray Skaff.

Greek Fest organizer Eleni Dellis said she hasn't heard from the transit operator.

OC Transpo tried this year to recoup costs from the Canadian Tire Centre and Bluesfest, but of the $532,000 they wanted, only $100,000 was secured.

metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, June 1, 2016

ASSISTED DYING BILL HEADS TO SENATE
The bill on assisted dying has passed the House of Commons and is headed to the Senate. The bill is not expected to pass by Monday, the day the ban on assisted suicide is formally lifted.

Abdulla Hamam, 23, is set to graduate from Carleton University on the heels of seeing himself on screen in the new X-Men: Apocalypse movie. CONTRIBUTED

'I felt as if God was smiling'

SYRIAN CRISIS

Student who sought refuge from civil war set to graduate

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

As civil war raged in Syria, Carleton University student Abdulla Hamam was only a couple of months away from his passport expiring and was desperate to stay in Ottawa.

But he said that when he spoke to staff at the embassy on Cartier Street at the end of 2011, Hamam — who was 19 at the time — was told to go back to Syria.

Syrian men face conscription at age 18, and at the time of his inquiry at the embassy, demonstrators were filling city streets demanding the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad and arming themselves.

Staff at the embassy in Ottawa were not particularly helpful, Hamam said.

"I don't know if it was playing dumb, but he said, 'Go home, it's fine.' Obviously, I left," he said.

He shared his tumultuous story on the heels of a life-changing and fortuitous appearance in the new X-Men: Apocalypse film and in anticipation of graduating in communications engineering at Carleton next month.

He's finally set to graduate, but only after an avalanche of setbacks at home and abroad.

His family in Homs had been supporting him financially since he came to Canada at age 17, while also investing all of their money in a pharmaceutical company. But their business suffered under civil unrest — medical shipments were held up at the bay and eventually it was damaged by gunfire and mortars, either at the hands of the Assad regime or rebels, said Hamam.

Hamam, struggling to pay for tuition and living expenses, worked three jobs in Ottawa: as a teaching assistant at Carleton, a gas-station attendant and a part-time tutor.

But by 2012, all of that came to a roaring halt when his student visa, passport and work permit expired. His life was essentially on hold.

"When you don't have a status in any place, you feel small. It's a weird feeling. You feel like you're nothing," he said.

> **Thank God I was here in Canada rather than somewhere else.**
> Abdulla Hamam

His work and studies were on a nearly two-year hiatus due to complications with his status and work permits. He didn't want to live here illegally nor did he want to get deported, so he applied for refugee status with Citizenship and Immigration Canada while he remained in Ottawa.

In that time as a refugee claimant, he relied on his friends for support and waited for the paperwork to go through.

It wasn't until September 2013 that he finally got his refugee status and was allowed to apply for OSAP.

During his studies in 2014 he also dabbled in acting and won the lead role of Professor Higgins in an Arabic rendition of My Fair Lady at Carleton. The musical was produced by Balmour Productions, a company he volunteered for while he was waiting for his refugee papers.

Fast forward to the spring of 2015. Hamam responded to a casting call in Montreal for Middle Eastern actors for roles in the X-Men: Apocalypse movie. The casting agency was impressed with him so it invited him to audition for a speaking role in the movie's opening scene, he said.

Hamam got the role — lead conspirator guard — in which his only line is in Arabic: "Death to the false gods." It's a small role, but it's still "a major deal," he said.

On set, he met fellow Carleton grad Hesham Hammoud, who starred in the same scene.

Looking back, Hamam feels blessed now after everything he has endured.

"I felt as if God was smiling to me, like, 'Here you go. Here's a tiny gift. You went through a lot, so maybe this will make up a little bit what you went through.' It felt very, very good,'" he said.

"Thank God I was here in Canada rather than somewhere else or maybe I would have been mistreated, judged or whatever."

POLITICS

Exiled Tory MPP returns to legislature

A Progressive Conservative politician who was ordered to attend sensitivity training returned to the legislature Tuesday after his six-week exile.

Jack MacLaren ROB FERGUSON / TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jack MacLaren came under fire earlier this year for making vulgar remarks about Liberal MP Karen McCrimmon while the two were sharing the stage at a fundraiser.

That controversy was followed by another, when a week later he apologized for using fake constituent testimonials online.

MacLaren returned Tuesday by attending a caucus meeting and said in sensitivity training he learned "that I had things to learn."

"I found it a beneficial experience and that words can hurt and I learned that I have to be more careful," MacLaren said.

His sensitivity training involved the teacher taking him through examples of different situations and asking him how he would respond, MacLaren said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LGBTQ RIGHTS

Wynne pledges to fix parenting laws

The definition of parents in Ontario — described as a man and a woman — will soon change, Premier Kathleen Wynne said Monday as she promised to fix the "outdated" laws that require same-sex couples to adopt their own children.

The provincial laws "do not reflect our views on who can form a family," Wynne told the gay-rights group EGALE.

"I am committed to fixing this," she said. "I want to see this definition changed in Ontario by the end of this year.

"I have asked the attorney general to bring forward legislation in September that would, if passed, ensure that parents are clearly recognized in Ontario, whether they be gay or straight," she said.

New Democrat Cheri DiNovo introduced a private member's bill last year to make birth registration services available to all LGBTQ families.

DiNovo is pleased the Liberals finally decided to act on the issue but said same-sex couples would get their parental rights more quickly if the government adopted her legislation, which already received second reading. THE CANADIAN PRESS

OFFICERS

Police investigating 'accommodated' staff

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

An Ottawa city councillor is raising questions around the number of police officers who are asking for fewer shifts while — at the same time — seem to be taking extra paid duty shifts.

At this week's Police Services Board meeting, board member and Beacon Hill-Cyrville councillor Tim Tierney said there are 160 officers on "accommodation."

Officers can request alterations or reductions in their duties due to a legitimate medical reason — for example, an officer with a broken wrist who can't carry out use of force, or one who is pregnant.

According to numbers the police service provided to Tierney, there are 99 officers on temporary accommodation and 61 officers on permanent accommodation.

He is seeking an inquiry to determine if the number is high compared to other municipal police forces and if it is common to allow accommodated officers to take paid duty shifts.

Tierney told Metro on Tuesday that 20 officers have approached him in the past two months to speak out about an apparent trend in accommodated officers taking extra shifts.

Acting Supt. Steve Bell said any accommodated officer who does paid duty must do so under the same restrictions they originally sought. He said it's too early to say if there is indeed a problem.

"Let's get the information, let's take a look at the information we have and identify if it's a problem, and if it's a problem, how it's affecting us," he said.

Bell expects to have an answer at the board's next meeting on June 27.

WEATHER

City drought worsens, could affect wildlife

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa's drought conditions are moving from mild to moderate — and it's only going to get worse if we don't get rain soon.

That could happen as soon as Thursday, if the Weather Network's seven-day forecast holds true.

Five to 10 millimetres are forecast for Thursday and Monday, with 10 to 15 mm falling on Sunday. But Environment Canada called only for a 40 per cent chance of showers on Sunday and Monday, and a 60 per cent chance of a thundershower on Thursday.

Patrick Larson, senior water resources technician with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, said last weekend's short downpours weren't enough to bring water levels back to normal.

A few days of consistent rain would have been better.

"Fifteen millimetres in an hour ... It would be too much to absorb and work its way to where it needs to go," Larson said.

The drought isn't too problematic yet: water levels are "certainly well below normal," but no lower than in mid-July, Larson said.

Still, if conditions continue they'll take a toll on nearby wildlife.

"As the water goes down, it reduces the habitat for plants and animals," Larson said. "If it gets dry enough we'll see fatalities of amphibians and reptiles, and various bugs in the water, as well."

Group fighting to stop new playground

MOONEY'S BAY PARK

Digging on site has started, structure set to open in 2017

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

As digging begins at Mooney's Bay Park for a massive — and controversial — new playground, residents who oppose the structure are pursuing every route available to stop it.

"This is a Bambi-meets-Godzilla fight," said former city councillor Karin Howard, who is leading a group called Save Mooney's Bay.

"All of us are just community people, we don't have unlimited money like the city does, we don't have a staff of legal advisers waiting to do whatever we tell them to do, and we don't control bulldozers," she said.

The group is planning to file a legal injunction to stop the playground, but were surprised on Monday when a construction crew began demolishing and digging the area set to house the large Canada-themed playground.

"They're already bulldozing the soil, so the injunction needs to be brought even faster than we thought," said Howard.

The city has partnered with a TVO show called Giver that films children helping to design and build playgrounds in their community.

The City of Ottawa and Sinking Ship Entertainment will split the $2-million cost of the structure, which is set to be open before 2017.

A construction crew is demolishing and digging the site of a new mega-playground at Mooney's Bay. HALEY RITCHIE /METRO

A group of residents living nearby the park are upset that no consultations took place and believe the new structure will negatively impact the green space.

On Tuesday, Howard met with MPP Yasir Naqvi, asking him to "take a close look and stop it."

The group has also asked the city's integrity commissioner to investigative.

> **This is a Bambi-meets-Godzilla fight.**
> Karin Howard

Howard said she is concerned that Sinking Ship Entertainment, the group behind the TVO show Giver, were not registered properly as lobbyists.

The city said planning talks for the playground began last winter, but Sinking Ship Entertainment doesn't have any lobbying activity filed.

Integrity commissioner Robert Marleau said complaints are confidential, but the process generally involves an investigation that, based on results, could include a report to Council with recommendations or sanctions.

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Church finds flock for rest of the week

All Saints Anglican Church, owned by residents, is used for a book launch reception in Ottawa on Thursday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALL SAINTS

Building already hosts tango classes and daycare

The idea of turning her local church into a community hub was at the forefront of Leanne Moussa's mind when the building went up for sale two years ago.

With a group of other residents, Moussa paid $1.52 million for All Saints Anglican Church, once the site of the state funeral for Prime Minister Robert Borden.

"We had a real interest in preserving what we see as an important place of Canadian history and preserving that as a public space in some way," she said. "We think this building and this property has served some important functions, not just for the congregation but for the larger community."

Once the renovations and repairs are complete, the church will be home to a coffee shop, a wedding event space and meeting rooms for book launches, art shows and activist groups. Eventually, the church's lower hall will be turned into a permanent restaurant.

Moussa, who is not religious, notes that All Saints is still a home of worship for smaller faith-based groups. It's used as a mosque on Friday, a synagogue on Saturday and a church to two Christian groups on Sunday. It's also a destination for tango and yoga classes nearly every night of the week.

"Our business plan is focused on being a financially viable project that continues to serve the community and we think we can do both," she said.

> **Churches should not be sitting empty. They can be busy, active, interesting, fun places all day long.**
> Rev. Karen Hamilton

Declining congregations and climbing maintenance costs have added to the financial troubles some churches have had to deal with over the past few years. It's led some to come up with creative alternative uses to keep their churches financially sound.

Rev. Karen Hamilton, general secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches, which bills itself as the largest ecumenical group in Canada, says there are a number of examples across the country where crumbling church buildings have been converted into bustling venues — with or without their original religious purpose.

Churches have been turned into seniors' housing complexes, condominium towers, daycares, concert halls and wedding event spaces. Some have even been converted into residential homes.

"What people have become aware of, which is great stewardship, is that these are great buildings that offer great spaces and facilities and should be used all the time," said Hamilton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH

Park plaque remembers deceased anti-smoking crusader

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

A decade after Ontario's smoke-free legislation came into effect, friends and family of anti-smoking advocate Heather Crowe gathered Tuesday in a Scott Street park to remember her.

The small, tree-lined space at the corner of Island Park Drive has been known as Heather Crowe Park since the first copper plaque unveiling in 2009. But after thieves made off with the plaque last September, the city decided to rededicate the park in her name.

Crowe, a non-smoker, was diagnosed with an inoperable lung cancer in 2002. She attributed her illness to the second-hand smoke exposure from decades of working as a waitress.

She became known as an anti-smoking crusader, travelling across the country to speak with students, politicians, hospitality workers and health professionals. She died on May 22, 2006, just nine days before the Smoke-Free Ontario Act came into effect.

Dr. Isra Levy, the city's medical officer of health, said the legislation helped cut down on the rate of smokers in Ottawa. Fifteen years ago, almost 25 per cent of residents smoked. Today, it's more like one in 10 people, he said.

When the park was dedicated to Crowe in 2009, the city also declared it a smoke-free space. It was a progressive move at the time, said Levy. By 2012, all public parks, beaches and municipal spaces in Ottawa were smoke-free.

Moe Atallah, Crowe's former boss at the old Newport Diner in Westboro, said Crowe inspired him to ban cigarettes long before the smoke-free legislation went into effect.

"At that time, cigarettes were only bad for you if you smoked it," he said. "We never knew that could affect the life of other people."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Friends and family of Heather Crowe gather in a park Tuesday to unveil a plaque in her name. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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CONSERVATION

Energy plan 'lopsided': Watchdog

Ontario's energy-conservation strategy is "lopsided," the environmental commissioner said Tuesday, just days ahead of the release of the Liberal government's climate-change action plan.

Dianne Saxe said in a report that Ontario has invested heavily in conserving electricity, but it's the smallest and cleanest of the province's major energy sources.

Electricity consumption has fallen six per cent since 2007, and since the last coal-fired plant was closed in 2014 that power has been much cleaner, but electricity only accounts for 20 per cent of Ontario's energy, she said.

Meanwhile, transportation fuel — primarily gasoline and diesel — and natural gas together make up about 73 per cent of Ontario's energy use. Ontarians are investing less than 10 per cent on conserving natural gas than they are on electricity, she said.

"It is therefore no surprise that other than coal, our total use of fossil fuels has gone up since 2007," she said. "We depend on fossil fuels for more than 80 per cent of our energy supply."

Saxe also said if broader public service buildings were more energy efficient, Ontario could save $450 million and one megatonne of greenhouse gas emissions every year.

Saxe admitted many of the issues she raised in her report will likely be addressed by the government's climate change action plan, which the premier has said will be made public by June 9.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Healing and heading home

Return to FORT MAC

Couple plans to be among first to re-enter city

Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Heather Thomas isn't sure how it will feel to see her still-standing house when she returns to Fort McMurray later this week.

"Things surprise you. Sometimes I'm fine … but I have other days where I cry and I get angry," Thomas said. "But it's okay, because that's part of the healing nature of going through a traumatic event."

Heather and her husband, Russell, said they feel lucky because their house in downtown was left unscathed. Still, going back comes with challenges. For one, it'll require the family to split up yet again.

The couple plans to be two of the first to return to the city as part of a phased re-entry for the more than 90,000 people who evacuated Fort McMurray in early May, which starts Wednesday.

Russell and Heather Thomas pack their belongings before setting off on the long ride back home to Fort McMurray, Alta. AARON CHATHA/METRO

But because of air quality concerns and the lack of supplies in the city, their two sons — one of whom has asthma — will stay back in Edmonton.

Heather will also head back south after retrieving her car, leaving Russell to get the house ready for the family's eventual return.

The family was first separated by the wildfire about one month ago: The morning of May 3 saw them on opposite sides of town — and as a result, forced to flee in opposite directions.

Russell, an artist, headed south that morning, to teach a painting workshop in Anzac.

"The sky was blue, the day looked perfect," he said.

Meanwhile, Heather welcomed a client at her home office in downtown Fort McMurray.

Her first indication of trouble was when her client's cellphone rang. And rang again. And rang a third time.

"So she checked her phone — and she leapt off the table and ran out of the house," Heather said.

That's when she looked outside and saw the huge clouds of smoke billowing over a hill.

Heather picked up her youngest son from school. Luckily, her oldest had stayed home sick that day, or would have been on the other side of the city.

Meanwhile, about 25 minutes away, Russell's painting students were getting ready to paint. When he heard evacuations had begun, he raced north, but it was too late.

"I hit the firewall that was just to the left of the highway … And the flames were hundreds of feet high," he said.

Left with no choice, Russell drove south, ending up in Calgary. Heather, her two sons and the family hedgehog escaped north, and spent two nights going from workcamp to workcamp before eventually getting a flight out.

Two days after evacuating, they stepped off a plane in Calgary and into Russell's waiting arms.

This time will be different, Heather says, though she's looking forward to reuniting as a family back in Fort Mac.

"That's where my kids were born, that's where I live," she said. "It's home."

WELCOME

Notley to greet evacuees

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley plans to be in Fort McMurray on Wednesday to help residents turn the page on a devastating wildfire and says she will carry with her vivid memories of the early days of the disaster.

Scenes of families in trucks and cars reduced to a crawl as they tried to escape through curtains of flame below a sky raining embers.

The tour of destroyed neighbourhoods reduced to grey expanses of soot.

It was the small things that jumped out.

"You go to a place where there was a house and what do you see on the ground? Nails. Piles and piles of nails," said Notley.

It has been a month since a roaring wildfire raced through Fort McMurray and cut the city in two, forcing the entire population of more than 80,000 to flee.

Notley recalled the first day, May 3, was focused on getting people out and nothing more.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Fisheries minister leaves cabinet, caucus

POLITICS

Hunter Tootoo taking time 'to seek treatment for addiction'

Federal Fisheries Minister Hunter Tootoo visits Eastern Passage, N.S., on May 20, 2016. Tootoo has resigned from the federal cabinet and is also leaving the Liberal caucus. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fisheries Minister Hunter Tootoo, citing "addiction issues," has resigned from the federal cabinet and is leaving the Liberal caucus.

Dominic LeBlanc, the government's House leader, will assume Tootoo's cabinet responsibilities.

A statement from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office says Tootoo is "taking time to seek treatment for addiction issues."

Tootoo, the first northerner to take on the role of fisheries minister, issued a brief statement saying he was stepping down in order not to distract from the important work of his colleagues.

Tootoo said he has "decided to seek treatment for addiction issues" and asked for "privacy at this time."

Tootoo, 52, was first elected as the MLA for Iqaluit Centre in 1999, where he served for 14 years and was the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly until 2013. He also held a number of cabinet positions in the territorial government.

In November, a month after Tootoo defeated former Conservative cabinet minister Leona Aglukkaq to claim the federal riding of Nunavut, he said in an interview he hoped to transfer his political experience to a national scale.

"I think that it is going to be very beneficial to me as we move forward," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ENVIRONMENT

Toxic rocket to make a splash in Arctic

Environmentalists are angry that a Russian rocket stage potentially carrying highly toxic chemicals is expected to splash down this weekend in a biodiversity hotspot in the Canadian Arctic.

"The idea of dropping a missile full of toxic chemicals in the Arctic waters off Baffin Island is just as preposterous as drilling for oil there," Greenpeace Arctic campaigner Alex Speers-Roesch said Tuesday.

"Dumping these chemicals from a ship would be a clear violation of international and Canadian law, and it is no more acceptable when it is dumped from the air."

An international aviation authority has issued a notice warning that debris from a Russian rocket launch is slated to fall Saturday into Baffin Bay. That's outside Canada's territorial waters but inside an economic zone the country partially controls.

The space debris is a stage from a rocket set off under Russia's Rokot program, a for-profit service that launches commercial satellites, said Michael Byers, a professor of international law and an Arctic expert at UBC.

Byers said Russia is following the rules by informing aviation authorities of the launch and the splashdown. The stage is falling over a remote stretch of water between Greenland and the southern tip of Ellesmere Island.

He notes Rokot uses repurposed Cold-War-era intercontinental ballistic missiles to launch satellites. Those missiles, the SS-19, use hydrazine for fuel.

The rocket stage is expected to come down in what is called the North Water Polynya, an 85,000-square-kilometre area of Arctic sea that naturally remains ice free year round.

The open water is a refuge for narwhal, beluga, walrus and bowhead whales. Its plankton-rich waters draw shoals of Arctic cod, providing food for an ecosystem that also supports seals, polar bears and millions of seabirds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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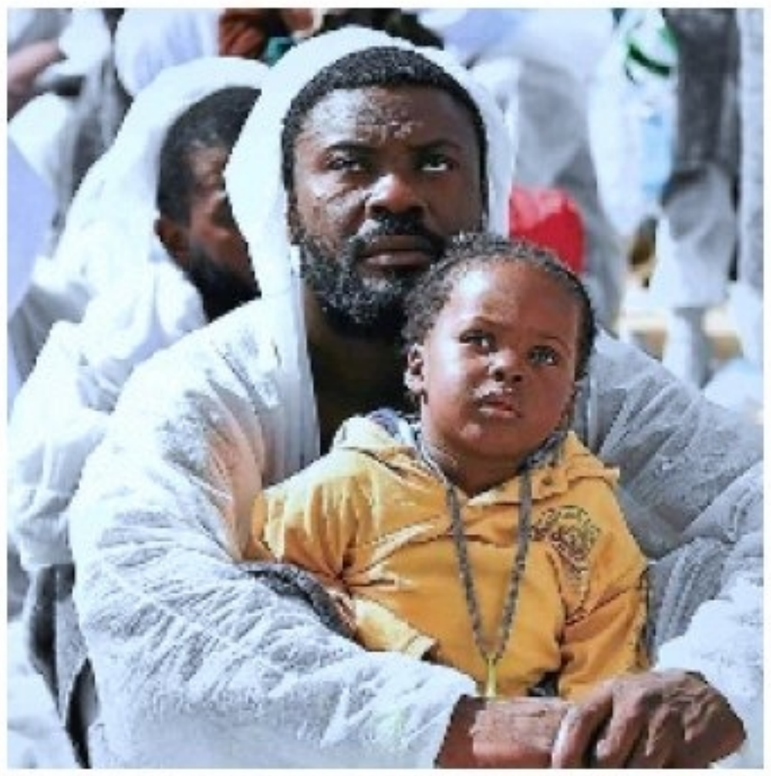

A man and his daughter wait during a distribution of meals aboard the rescue ship Aquarius, on May 25, a day after a massive rescue operation of migrants and refugees off the Libyan coast. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

CINCINNATI ZOO

Police investigating gorilla incident

Police said Tuesday they were investigating the circumstances surrounding a 4-year-old boy entering a gorilla's exhibit at the Cincinnati Zoo and the animal being shot to death to protect the child. A federal investigation is also planned.

A federal inspection less than two months ago found no problems with the zoo's Gorilla World exhibit, but earlier zoo inspections reported issues including the potential danger to the public from a March incident involving wandering polar bears.

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters' office said Cincinnati police are investigating what transpired with the death of the gorilla named Harambe on Saturday. Afterward, police will talk with prosecutors about whether charges are warranted, the office said.

Police said over the weekend that no charges were planned, but spokeswoman Tiffaney Hardy said Tuesday they are still gathering information.

Some critics have said the boy's parents should be charged with child endangering, while others want the zoo held responsible for the death of the 17-year-old gorilla. The boy was released from a hospital, and his family has said he's "doing just fine."

Tanya Espinosa, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said that it would be looking for any violations of the Animal Welfare Act. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENTER TRUMP

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump says the Cincinnati Zoo had little choice but to kill the gorilla after a boy got into its exhibit.

Trump was asked about the gorilla during a news conference Tuesday in New York.

Sea route deaths rise

REFUGEE CRISIS

Estimated 880 dead this week a 'conservative' count: UN

The treacherous Mediterranean Sea crossing from Libya to Italy has claimed the lives of over 1,030 migrants in the last week, mostly as barely seaworthy smuggling boats foundered and sank despite calm seas and sunny skies, a migration agency said Tuesday, citing new accounts from survivors.

The staggering death toll foreshadows more disasters ahead in the next few months as the region gears up for its traditional summer-fall spike in human trafficking as the weather improves and the seas grow warmer. Aid officials said it also suggests that Libyan smuggling gangs are using even riskier tactics than before to profit from the torrent of those desperate to reach the safety or economic promise of Europe.

The jaw-dropping tally is only from shipwrecks that are known to authorities, who readily admit they simply do not know how many people are being cheated by smugglers, jammed into obviously unsuitable vessels and swallowed up by the vast waters of the southern Mediterranean.

Two Eritreans interviewed by The Associated Press — among the hundreds of shipwreck survivors brought to Italian ports —were haunted by the fact that so many women and children had been on their capsized boat and did not survive. They said they could still hear their cries.

"I started to cry when I saw the situation and when I found the ship without an engine. There were many women and children," said 21-year-old Filmon Selomon who plunged into the sea to save himself. "Water was coming in from everywhere."

UN refugee spokesman William Spindler told reporters at a news conference in Geneva that this year is already proving to be "particularly deadly" on the Mediterranean, with some 2,510 lives lost compared to 1,855 in the same time span a year ago.

The International Organization for Migration said Tuesday that 62 people were confirmed dead and another 971 were missing and presumed dead in nine separate deadly emergencies since May 25 on the Libya-to-Italy sea route.

The UN refugee agency said Tuesday it had tallied at least 880 deaths on the Mediterranean over the last week. Spindler noted such estimates are an inexact science, and said his agency's figures tend to be "conservative." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **There were many women and children.** Filmon Selomon

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Wednesday, June 1, 2016

TIM QUERENGESSER ON ALBERTA'S RECKONING

Today marks the onset of a perfect storm the NDP government must weather. How it chooses to do this will tell us a lot about the Alberta you think you know

When people begin returning to Fort McMurray today, the natural reaction might be to see is as the end of a dark chapter — the most difficult times falling behind us — and to be thankful that so much human suffering has been balanced by so little loss of life.

This is all true. Today does mark the beginning of the end of fear and adrenaline for the residents of Fort McMurray. And we should be thankful.

But today also marks the onset of a perfect storm the Alberta government must weather. And how it chooses to do this will tell us whether the Alberta you think you know can stay that way for long.

The background: In its most recent provincial budget, tabled about a month before the wildfires, the Alberta government noted its largest ever drop in the revenues from oil royalties, thanks, of course, to the tumbling price of oil.

The drop was staggering, falling from $7.2 billion in 2014-15 to just $989 million in 2016, and it forced Alberta to revise its own recently created spending cap to allow it to borrow more money.

To give you an idea just how dire this was before the fire arrived, Alberta had already projected it would have to be loaned some $57.6 billion by the 2018-19 fiscal year — and it was already using borrowed money to pay for basics like teachers' and doctors' wages. Rather unprecedented in a province of plenty.

How will Alberta manage perhaps its nastiest downturn ever, without doing something different than before?

And, to add insult, the province's credit rating had already been downgraded several times.

The strategy to face this was the standard Albertan refrain: We won't introduce what other provinces rely on, like sales taxes; we'll wait for the future, when oil prices will surely rebound. To this the NDP government added the idea of stimulus: Let's build infrastructure and bolster the economy with construction jobs. To that end it announced more than $7 billion for things like roads and bridges.

The devastated neighbourhood of Abasand is shown in Fort McMurray. Thousands of evacuees are expected to return to the city today.
JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

But in the aftermath of the Fort McMurray wildfires, which were disturbingly symbolic in attacking the centre of Alberta oil production, a reckoning on that strategy is inescapable.

In mid-May the Conference Board of Canada estimated the wildfire would cost Alberta at least $985 million in real GDP in 2016. But Marie-Christine Bernard, who helped prepare the study, pointed out that the report came before the wildfire turned around and attacked oilsands work camps, forcing some 9,000 to evacuate and delaying oil production yet again. Bernard said the updated report, due in about two weeks, will adjust its lost-GDP estimate upward.

We ran the numbers and it could be by as much as another $400 million — meaning Alberta is set for a hit in excess of $1 billion.

Which brings us to the perfect storm. The question facing Rachel Notley's NDP government is stark: How will Alberta manage perhaps the nastiest downturn it has ever encountered, compounded by the Fort McMurray wildfires, without doing something far different than before?

Consider: Big pots of money are being spent, right now, to pay for evacuations and to rebuild Fort McMurray while oil production has been stunted and the price of oil is forecast to hover around $40 a barrel through 2016, before possibly climbing into the $50 region by 2017. For context, in 2015, when oil fell to $60 a barrel from its highs of more than $100, alarm bells were already being rung. The clock on when it needs to rebound to rescue Alberta's long-standing status quo has almost definitely struck midnight.

The reflexive answer from the left that usually pops up in tough times is increasing taxes. The reflexive response to increasing taxes from the right is to cut spending.

Politically speaking, the Alberta government can't afford to do either.

In early 2015, a Mainstreet Technologies poll, published by the Calgary Herald in the days before the provincial election, found that just 15 per cent of Alberta respondents were in favour of increasing taxes to offset falling oil revenues. More than 40 per cent said spending should be cut instead. And just nine per cent said a sales tax would be the best solution. (Alberta is alone in provincial Canada in not having a sales tax.)

Meanwhile, who would propose the idea of cutting spending in a time like this? Rebuilding Fort McMurray is a must. Spending is without doubt set to increase for many years ahead.

And so, whether it wants to or not, the Alberta you may think you know from your perch in Toronto, Winnipeg, Halifax or Vancouver, is doubtlessly set to change.

Really, the fires have only begun.

Tim Querengesser is the managing editor of Metro Edmonton.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

Old guard of women's mags helping bring feminism into fashion

With only a tenuous tie to any concept of feminism, women's magazines have long been a safe haven for sexism, selling women an "idea of women" as supremely desirable, ornamental, domestic and rich.

That has made them like candy to me: an indulgence that's bad for my health. A flipbook of women I'll never be, but that some small part of me still aspires to: the sexiest, the most stylish. The perfect.

This tradition has not died, but it is being infiltrated, and even undermined.

Take Glamour magazine's series "Abortion in America: The Tipping Point," which promises to look at "what's next for activists on both sides" but features headlines that are clearly pro-choice. E.g., "I've Already Been 'Punished' For My Abortion," "Oklahoma Governor Sees Reasons, Vetoes Anti-Abortion Bill" and "Terrifying (and True) Facts About Violence Against Abortion Providers."

The Cut, ostensibly New York Magazine's lifestyle vertical, has lately been the home of feminist takes on everything from Rokudenashiko, the Japanese vagina artist, to how not to give women dating advice, to sexism in Hollywood. Refinery29, an online fashion/lifestyle magazine, was seemingly founded to serve hip young women willing to click on a #sexism link.

Then there's Cosmopolitan, which announced political coverage to great fanfare in 2014, a move that MSNBC attributed to "a high demand for conversations on women's political issues." Recently, Cosmo published a slam piece on Donald Trump's "'soft' misogyny" and a look at how Baylor University "Failed to Help Women Who Were Sexually Assaulted" with the subhead "This is a really big deal."

In Canada, Chatelaine has been shifting gears under editor-in-chief Lianne George, publishing feminist takes on Jian Ghomeshi (while shying away from the word "feminism"), a series of personal essays on women's relationships to their breasts, and regular dispatches on women's issues from columnist Rachel Giese. Even Flare magazine profiled the "Boss Babe" of Toronto's women-only taxi service DriveHer, amid stories of runway-inspired prom hair.

That doesn't mean women's mags aren't flogging the usual wares ("Get tight abs" "Wake up hotter!"). Nor that the whole package isn't still racialized (Caution: white women everywhere!) and classist.

But I do take heart in these small improvements. If Glamour cares this much about abortion (a fact that surprised me), that's clearly because it's listening to its readers. Branding yourself in line with the modern woman's identity requires adding a feminist spin.

I will take a side of "The gender pay gap sucks," then, with that slideshow of the season's best block heels, thank you very much.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Poland's justice minister revived an effort to extradite Roman Polanski to the U.S., where he is wanted in a decades-old case involving sex with a minor.

GRAPE EXPECTATIONS

A PHONY WINE SAVANT SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH SOCIETY'S ELITE AND EARNED MILLIONS AUCTIONING COUNTERFEIT VINTAGES. IT'S A WONDER THERE ISN'T MORE WINE FRAUD.

Burgundy's famous Domaine Ponsot vintages were at the centre of Rudy Kurniawan's (seen inset) wine fraud scandal. COURTESY SOUR GRAPES

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

When one thinks of heist movies, they generally don't think of Beaujolais.

Then again, with most of us unable to truly tell the difference between an expensive sip of Burgundy from the Puligny-Montrachet region of France and a swig of cheap vino from New Jersey, it's a wonder there isn't more wine fraud.

In the new film Sour Grapes, filmmakers Jerry Rothwell and Reuben Atlas uncovered the story of Rudy Kurniawan — a phony wine savant who was able to surround himself with society's elite and earn millions auctioning counterfeit vintages.

"Wine has its own language, and it's a strange language because it's about putting taste into words," explained Rothwell. "There's good and bad wine and there's got to be some way to define that and it's into that gap where Rudy jumps — this thing that's hard to pin down, subjective and very much about the context."

Context is everything when discussing the high-end world of wine collecting. As the film shows, Kurniawan was able to mimic the rarest vintages by cracking into high society circles. Billionaire Bill Koch even purchased about $4 million worth of Kurniawan's stock — which the infamous financier eventually found to be bogus.

"It's just been commodified into this thing for which incredible amounts of money change hands," said Rothwell of the runaway wine market at the turn of the millennium, when Kurniawan's con was at its height.

"We both knew the film had to take a non-wine audience into this weird world of wine aficionados," said Rothwell of the movie's caper-like structure.

"As we started to realize Rudy was going to be the mysterious centre of the film rather than the narrative voice, it would become a film that was about being conned and about vulnerability."

Surely, there is some cathartic pleasure in watching millionaires fall prey to a seemingly harmless hustler. But even as both filmmakers stated their aim was to "hold a finger up to sommeliers telling you why you ordered wrong," they also discovered the world of wine collection is more than just snobbery.

"Wine is a legitimate art form and collectors even have legitimacy," said Atlas. "You may disagree with the money they spend (but) the more I learned about the wine world, the more I felt sympathetic to everybody."

The Essentials of Wine Investment

Wine is no longer just for drinking. With the world's most expensive vintages worth thousands of dollars, collectors are increasingly investing in rare bottles. Here are three essential tips for wine collectors:

• **Educate Yourself:** Only a small percentage of world's wine makes up the most marketable investments. While the wines of Bordeaux and Burgundy command the highest price, get to learn the value of all vintages.

• **Price Factors:** Do the work to learn what affects the value of vino — like age and maturation, supply and demand and the price of vintages themselves.

• **Storage:** Although ideal wine storage hovers around 13 degrees Celsius, it's also important to understand such conditions as air quality, humidity, corkage and how to rack your bottles.

WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE WINES

Domaine de la Romanee-Conti Romanee-Conti Grand Cru, Cote de Nuits, France
This blue-ribbon bottle has been called the perfect Burgundy and is considered the world's most sought after wine. **Average Price: $13,109**

Egon Mueller-Scharzhof Scharzhofberger Riesling
Mosel, Germany
Originating in a respected family-run vineyard, this intense German Riesling is increasing in popularity. **Average Price: $9,170**

Domaine Leflaive Montrachet Grand Cru, Cote de Beaune, France
This biodynamic wine from one of France's most famous estates has a growing cycle based on moon phases and the position of the planets. **Average Price: $5,835**

*For more information on wine investment, visit: www.wine-searcher.com (US prices according to wine-searcher.com) *prices last updated May 9*

ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Steak

A sizzling steak hot off the grill is a staple of summer eating, but the cut you pick makes all the difference to your heart and hips!

PICK THIS

New York Strip (12 oz)

Calories 570
Fat 34g
Saturated Fat 10g

SKIP THIS

Rib-Eye Steak (12 oz)

Calories 932
Fat 76g
Saturated Fat 30g

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent to eight Chicken Kaiser sandwiches from Swiss Chalet (white meat, no skin) in fat.

Who can't help but crave a juicy grilled steak when on the patio or at the cottage? The type of steak you pick isn't just a palate preference — choosing a leaner cut makes a world of difference when it comes to nutrition. The rib-eye might be considered a prestigious and delicious cut, but you're consuming close to half your daily calories and fat. The New York Strip steak is not only a more affordable cut, it also cuts your calories and total fat by half, and has a third of the saturated fat.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

An addictive antidote to life's uncertainties

THE SHOW: The Wendy Williams Show (CBS)
THE MOMENT: "Ask Wendy"

Audience members lob questions at afternoon talk show host Wendy Williams. "My new husband invited my ex-boyfriend to visit," a gay man says. "Should I be worried?"

"Yes," Wendy replies flatly.

A woman asks, "My boyfriend's daughter lives with him. How can I get her out?"

"When he gives you a ring and you set a date, your opinion will count," Wendy answers.

Another woman says, "My boyfriend and I took a break. During the break he slept with his ex. Now she's pregnant..."

Wendy cuts her off: "This is not worth your trouble. Move along."

I'd never seen this show before and I can't believe the speed and certitude with which Wendy dispenses advice. In fact I can't believe how quickly Wendy talks period: So many words said so authoritatively in so little time it's breathtaking, or rather not breathtaking, since she talks without taking any breaths at all.

Wendy Williams. DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR OPERATION SMILE

Her guests are the same. Before "Ask Wendy," Williams interviewed fashion guru Andre Leon Talley. In two minutes flat, they covered a new fashion doc, Will Smith's children ("Jaden is gender fluid!" Talley cried repeatedly), what's out of style ("Over-decorated nails, rudeness, and women on the street at noon who are dressed for pole dancing") and his podcast.

If you are plagued by uncertainty, this show is the antidote. Watch Williams, and for a precious hour, live in a world without doubt, where good-looking people who have all the answers tell them to you quickly. She's cocaine in human form.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Food stylist spills Instagram secrets

INTERVIEW

Making social media meals look good enough to eat

Amy Pataki
Torstar News Service

Jim Sturgess and David Schwimmer star in the new AMC restaurant drama Feed the Beast. Below right: A rack of lamb with smoked eggplant, olive and gigante beans from the show. CONTRIBUTED

A lot of television cooking magic lies in the editing. So says American food stylist Susan Spungen (Julie & Julia). She created the dishes on new TV drama Feed the Beast, in which two best friends try to turn their lives around by opening an upscale Greek restaurant. The series premieres June 5 on AMC. Tommy Moran (David Schwimmer) is the sommelier. Dion Patras (Jim Sturgess) is the chef. We talked to Spungen about how to make home cooking, as well as TV food, look appetizing.

Did Jim Sturgess know how to cook?
I'm not sure how much experience he has as a home cook, but he has spent a ton of time learning skills in cooking classes as we've been shooting, so he's improved a lot, but a lot can be done with editing, too!

For the last decade, chefs have been using tweezers, squeeze bottles and even liquid nitrogen to jazz up their plates. How can home cooks make their plates look good?
Well, that is just one style, and it is not representative of all chefs and all styles of cooking. Dion Patras is not a tweezer chef. I think it is best to make sure to cook food well, using good technique and make sure you have a lot of colour on the plate, which doesn't necessarily means a lot of different colours. A monochromatic plate can be beautiful. The colours should be considered before you decide what to cook.

What are your top three plating don'ts?
Don't plate too soon, especially sliced red meat. Don't use tweezers! And don't sprinkle parsley on the plate (so '80s).

How can readers take a beautiful food photo?
I always look for an exciting food moment — and then I have to find some good light. When I'm home, I will move something around and shoot it in a couple of different locations to find the best light. Then I do a little tuning to make it pop more. Avoid artificial light if you can. And of course, colour and composition should be taken into consideration.

Also, only post it if you think it's pretty good. You don't have to post every picture you take.

THE FOUR HORSEMEN, Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Dave Franco, Lizzy Caplan, return for a second mind-bending adventure, elevating the limits of stage illusion to new heights and taking them around the globe.

Wonderlist is giving you a chance to see

NOW YOU SEE ME 2

before it comes out in theatres on June 10!

A double pass to see an advance screening of Now You See Me 2 on Wednesday, June 8, 2016

No purchase necessary. Skill testing question required. Contest open to residents of Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba (excluding QB) 18 years of age or older. There are two hundred and fourty five (245) prizes available to be won, thirty five (35) in each market. Each winner will receive two (2) tickets to see an advance screening of Now You See Me 2 on Wednesday, June 08, 2016. ARV: twenty five dollars ($25) CDN. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received in the applicable entry period. Contest Period opens at 01:0 pm ET on May 19, 2016 and closes at 09:00 am ET on June 01, 2016. For instructions to enter and complete contest rules, visit wonderlist.ca.

metro WHEELS
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Lowrider culture on display at Sante Fe exhibit

Nimble car, fantastic steering

VOLKSWAGEN CANADA

REVIEW

Golf R a truly great ride, manual or no

This is the first year the Golf R is available with an automatic transmission.

Driving a Volkswagen Golf R has always put you in a special club of "Save the Manuals" fanatics, so more than a couple enthusiasts melodramatically proclaimed that "this is the end" when VW announced that a six-speed DSG would become available in the hot hatch for the first time ever.

Fans liked the fact that this hot hatch used to be manual-only, because it felt like an exclusive club, but how does the R do with this new DSG? Is the hot hatch just as hot without three pedals?

The quick answer is that this six-speed DSG is probably the best dual clutch automatic transmission on the market right now, so any fears about an automatic neutering of the R and making it boring are completely unfounded.

The shifts are like rapid fire, and the DSG never gets confused and always seems to know what gear to be in. There's no weird shuddering at low speeds, and it's not shy about dropping down a gear to keep the engine in its sweet spot when you need more power. The automatic is just so good, it doesn't really take away from how fun the R feels and it will even get to to 96 km/h about 0.7 seconds faster than the manual can, even though the manual is 36 kilograms lighter.

Helping it hit those speeds is a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder with 292 horsepower. That may not seem like much in a world of 700-hp Hellcats, but in practice, you'll never find yourself wanting more. Getting up to highway speeds or juking around traffic in town, the R feels so much faster than its numbers suggest. It's a nimble car with fantastic steering.

When you first get into the R, it can feel a lot like a GTI, maybe a bit stiffer and slightly quicker. But switching into Race mode changes the car's personality entirely.

One complaint about the R in its regular driving mode was that it was too quiet. Well, race mode has your back.

All of a sudden, the R puts its mean face on, it's faster, it's more responsive, and has a growly sound to match. It's loud enough to make you smile, but isn't so loud that you feel like a teenaged idiot with a fart can.

The R starts at just over $39,995, which is a bargain for a car with this type of poise and performance, but loaded up, those numbers can quickly creep up, making it one of the more pricey VWs.

All in all, the GTI has always been a great car, and the R makes it even better.

It's well-rounded, refined, fun, practical, and it's just as happy ripping through twisty roads as it is just going to the grocery store. And this is still true, even with an automatic transmission.

AUTOGUIDE.COM

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF R

THE BASICS

Engine: 2.0L turbo four-cylinder
Power: 292 hp
Transmission: Six-speed DSG (or Six-speed manual)
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 10.4 city, 7.9 highway (DSG)
Price: Starts at $39,995, $43,410 as tested

LOVE IT
- Practical yet fun
- Very composed at all times
- Under the radar

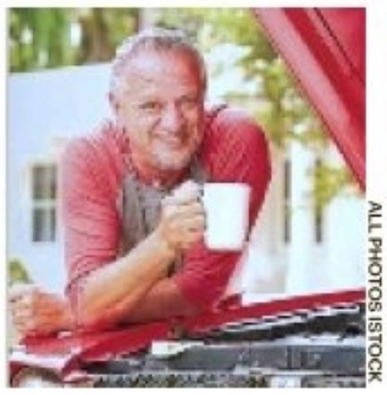
LEAVE IT
- GTI is already so good
- Expensive for a VW
- Very dark interior

3 THINGS THAT'LL WREAK HAVOC ON YOUR PAINT JOB

Cars are tough, but that colourful coating on the outside isn't as durable as you may think. Here's a quick list of what kind of things can screw up your paint. **AUTOGUIDE.COM**

1 Bugs

The sign of a true spring and summer road trip is to see some bug splatter on your car's windshield and bumper. Some of the acids in bugs can seriously eat away at your car's paint if left for too long. Acids found in the blood of insects can permanently damage your car, and need special attention. Most experts agree that lathering up the bug guts ASAP helps.



ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

2 Drinks

Sometimes we leave our coffee or soda cups on the hood of our car while getting in. Take care not to spill that stuff, because there's some nasty, paint-eating stuff in both coffee and most soda. Coffee and cola are both acidic and both will damage and corrode your paint if left untreated.

3 Dust

Dust is very fine dirt and if one of your cheeky friends writes in it, they can seriously screw up and scratch your paint. Dust and pollen can leave scratches if you wipe it dry. A gentle car wash will help clear this dirt without damaging the paint, but if you do wipe it and leave a scratch you may need help from a detailer.

Google's sticky solution for pedestrians

SAFETY

Sticky patent filed

Google has patented a new sticky hood that is meant to improve pedestrian safety. The system is designed to have the pedestrian stick to the front end of the car in a collision, preventing them from flying away and being injured further. The patent notes that the worst injuries in pedestrian collisions often happen when the pedestrian is thrown from the vehicle, colliding with either objects or the road.

ZENITH COLLECTION

Rolls-Royce Phantom bids farewell

The Rolls-Royce Phantom is getting a final goodbye with the Phantom Zenith Collection. As promised, the British automaker has released details on the final special edition of the Rolls-Royce Phantom, as the open-top luxury car is being replaced with the new Rolls-Royce Dawn. The Zenith Collection will celebrate its history and is limited to 50 units.

FOR SALE

Hyundai builds 'Iron Man' suit

WHEELS ROUND UP
News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com

Hyundai has released photos of a "wearable robot" exoskeleton that it has developed, an invention the brand compares to the suit featured in the Iron Man movie franchise. "Hyundai Motor Group is developing a wearable robot because it is being targeted for commercialization," says a post on an official Hyundai blog. The suit has a number of benefits including giving the wearer the ability to lift heavy objects, to help with walking for those who are disabled and for physical therapy purposes. Beyond those uses, Hyundai also said that this type of suit could be used in factories and in the military.

IN BRIEF

Volvo previews future tech-filled small car

Volvo has revealed a pair of new concept cars previewing how the brand's future small cars will look.

Volvo calls them the 40 series concepts, both of which show how Volvo will move forward both in design terms and in technology. Both of the cars ride on the Compact Modular Architecture, a scalable platform that will underpin all of Volvo's small cars.

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metro SPORTS

"I haven't even thought about it": Kevin Durant on his soon-to-be free agent status after the Thunder bowed out of the playoffs Tuesday night

Fury draw reigning champs in semis

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Ottawa to host MLS team for the first time in its history

Regardless of whether they win or lose, the Ottawa Fury are about to make history.

Ottawa hosts the defending champion Vancouver Whitecaps of Major League Soccer on Wednesday night in the first leg of the Amway Canadian Championship semifinals.

It will mark the first time the Fury, last year's fall season winners in the North American Soccer League, will get to host a club from the higher-tier MLS.

"It's a step up in quality for us, we're facing MLS opposition for the first time," said Ottawa head coach Paul Dalglish. "It's a step up in quality so you expect them to be better at everything than what we've faced so far this season.

"It's MLS opposition in Ottawa for the first time so it's an opportunity for everybody to support their local team against a real David and Goliath story."

The Fury advanced to the semifinals after defeating FC Edmonton 3-2 on aggregate in their two-match preliminary series earlier this month.

The second leg of the series will be held June 8 in Vancouver.

Octavio Rivero of the Vancouver Whitecaps uses his head to get a shot on goal during a 1-1 draw with the Houston Dynamo on Saturday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The winner will advance to the championship final and face the winner of the other semifinal between Toronto FC and the Montreal Impact.

Dalglish knows what his team is up against and while he remains optimistic, he says there's no point being unrealistic.

"We've got to understand what we are. We're a minor-league team going against a major-league team," he said. "We've got to be respectful, but not fearful of the opposition. Anything can happen; luck plays a massive part in soccer. The underdog can always beat the favourite and that's why it's the most popular game in the world."

Players realize the NASL is considered a second-tier league to the MLS, but they don't believe the gulf is as big as some might think.

"You hear all the time that if you take the designated players away from an MLS team it's quite even," said Fury forward Carl Haworth. "There's some good teams in the NASL that can compete with the MLS on any given day so I think we're going to see a pretty exciting game and pretty evenly matched. This is an opportunity for us to show that we are good enough to play at that level, that we are good enough to play in the MLS and sort of showcase ourselves."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

M.I.A.

The Fury will be without Julian de Guzman and Marcel de Jong. Both were called up to the Canadian senior men's national team.

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Crosby sets gold standard for Pens

The probable scratches at a sparsely attended Pittsburgh Penguins practice were joined by arguably the best hockey player in the world.

Hours after a dominant performance in the Penguins' 3-2 win over San Jose to open the Stanley Cup final, Sidney Crosby toiled alongside those that likely would not play in Game 2.

Crosby took to the ice at the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex about 15 minutes before the scheduled 12:15 p.m. workout. He lingered after the session, working on his shot in the slot and sharpening his skills in the faceoff circle.

16

Crosby is tied for eighth in playoff points with 16 — six goals and 10 assists.

It was an example of the leadership the Penguins speak about glowingly.

"I don't think he's as good as he is by accident," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "As long as I've been associated with this league I don't know that I've been around a player that has the same work ethic as Sid does as far as that insatiable appetite to try to just get better and be the best. And I think that's why he's as good as he is.

"It also sets a standard for our team when your captain and your top player brings a work ethic to the rink every day like he does." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Nos. 2, 6 in French Open women's draw lose in rain

Yes, they actually managed to complete a match on this wettest of weeks at the French Open. Two, even. And both involved surprises: two of the top half-dozen seeded women lost within minutes of each other, No. 2 Agnieszka Radwanska and No. 6 Simona Halep.

After their fourth-round exits Tuesday, both Radwanska and Halep complained firmly about tournament organizers' decision to make them play through drizzles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurricanes hire Samuelsson to coach AHL affiliate

The Carolina Hurricanes have hired veteran NHL defenceman Ulf Samuelsson to coach their AHL affiliate in Charlotte.

The 52-year-old Samuelsson and Hurricanes GM Ron Francis were teammates in Hartford, and were traded together to Pittsburgh and helped the Penguins win the Stanley Cup in 1991 and 1992.

Samuelsson's spent the past three seasons as an assistant with the Rangers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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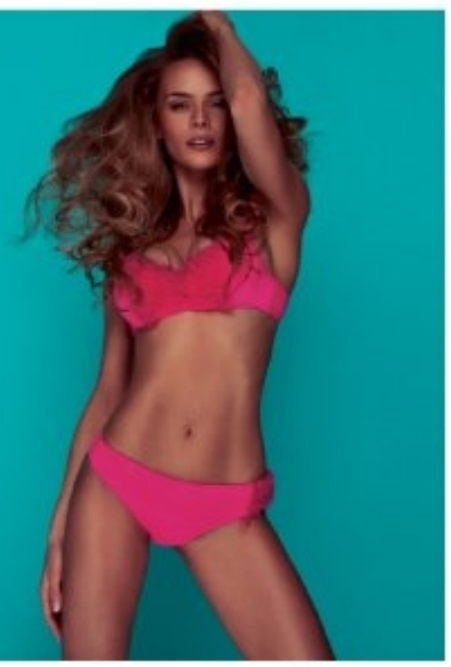

RECIPE Israeli Couscous Pilaf

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Its worth the effort to look for this larger-grained variety of couscous, it gives this vegetarian pilaf heft and a great texture.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp of olive oil
- 1 cup, whole grain Israeli couscous
- 1 cup chicken or vegetable stock
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup chopped cucumber
- 1/2 cup chopped yellow pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped tomato
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta
- 1 small handful chopped mint
- 1 small handful chopped parsley
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/8 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp Dijon
- 1 tsp honey
- salt and pepper

Directions

1. In a pot, bring olive oil to a medium heat. Add the onions and let soften and start to brown. Add the couscous and stir to cover in oil. Stir often and let the couscous absorb the oil for about three to five minutes.

2. Stir in stock and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and allow to simmer for about 15 minutes, until the couscous is al dente.

3. Toss together the chopped vegetables, feta, mint and parsley. Add the cooked couscous and stir together.

4. In a small bowl, whisk the olive oil, vinegar, Dijon, honey and salt and pepper. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

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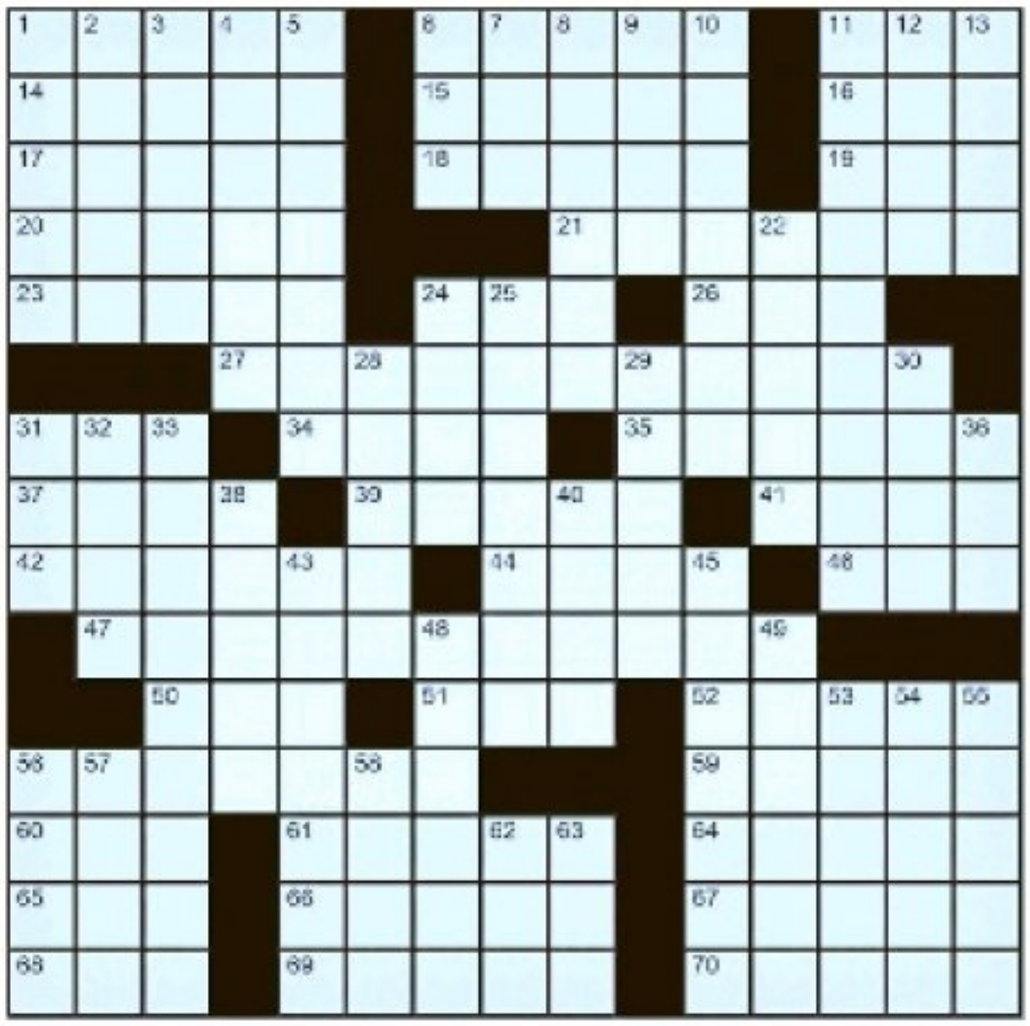
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Bluff
6. "Born to Be Wild" enthusiast
11. "That's MY rawhide!"
14. Award, States-style
15. Duck
16. Canuck financial inst.
17. Lumberjack's tool, just one: 2 wds.
18. Works the bar
19. All-you-can-__
20. Property separator
21. Restaurant staff
23. Montgomery Clift's biopic title role in 1962
24. Spencer Davis Group's "__ Man"
26. Lair
27. Canada-USA crossing gig: 2 wds.
31. Kiev's land [abbr.]
34. __ 18 (WWII-set novel by Leon Uris)
35. Gasping-in-horror motion
37. Pinocchio-ed
39. Dance garb fabric
41. Hoisted, nautical-style
42. Open the documents marked CLASSIFIED
44. Camera lovers
46. Converged
47. Smoked meat deli in Montreal: 2 wds.
50. Eliminate
51. "Cabaret" (1972) actress ...her initials-sharers
52. Digs
56. __ of the Seas (World's largest cruise ship)
59. That place
60. Bart Simpson's grandfather
61. Empty environs
64. Enjoy the meal: 2 wds.
65. "The Voice" broadcaster
66. Boredom
67. Build buildings
68. Capture
69. Thesaurus compiler, Peter Mark __ (b.1779 - d.1869)
70. Wheezing noises

DOWN
1. Brit-style banter
2. Solo party planner
3. Absurd
4. Young animal in the forest: 2 wds.
5. "_! '90": George Michael's music video featuring supermodels including Canada's Linda Evangelista
6. Casino wager
7. 'Excess' ending
8. Amber __ (Co-host of BNN's innovative businesses show "The Disruptors" ...more at #54-Down)
9. Norse story
10. Slag or dreg
11. TV talk show's wait spot pre-interview: 2 wds.
12. "The Roy Rogers Show" setting, Double __ Ranch
13. Store returns proofs [abbr.]
22. Impart knowledge
24. Lazily
25. Saskatchewan village a half hour east of Saskatoon
28. Streamlets
29. Prefix to 'phone' (Antique record player)
30. Start the scuba-ing
31. Arctic knife
32. Variety
33. Rise up the Phoenix
36. Sanction
38. Casual-wear choice
40. NFL players in Los Angeles
43. Perth-__, New Brunswick
45. Not as blatant
48. Rita MacNeil's "__ on Your Own"
49. Super sandy site
53. Ward off
54. As per #8-Down ..."The Disruptors" co-host Mr. Croxon
55. Sevens, in Sherbrooke
56. "__ Ten" by Canadian singer Edwin
57. Superior at a French monastery
58. __!_! (Hair removal tool advertised on TV)
62. "__ South"
63. Be a portrait model

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Don't worry about spending a lot of time daydreaming today; it is what it is. Be clear in all your communications, because it's easy to be confused today.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a poor day for major expenditures or important financial decisions. It's also a poor day to shop for anything other than food or gas. Protect your wealth.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It's normal to feel your energy is low today. Sleep in or take a nap if you can. Don't push yourself, because this is the kind of day to take it easy. Don't expect too much from others, either.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Secrets might come out today. If so, do not be quick to believe them. As Churchill once said, "There are a lot of lies going around, and some of them are true."

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you're involved with a group of people today, don't be pushy. People will change their mind a lot, because nobody is quite sure what they want. It happens.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a poor day to ask bosses and authority figures for permission or approval. Nothing will turn out the way you think. Wait until tomorrow.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You long to escape somewhere today. You want to get away from all this. If dreams were horses, then beggars would ride.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Despite your interest in shared property, taxes and inheritances at the moment, this is a poor day to make decisions regarding these matters. Furthermore, don't believe everything you hear.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have to compromise with others today. However, if people seem confused, do nothing. Tomorrow is a better day to act. Just coast today.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't be hard on yourself if you don't accomplish too much at work today. Some days are productive; some days are not. This is one of them.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is the perfect day to kick back and relax. Enjoy sports events, the arts and playful times with kids. Sneak away on a fun outing, if you can.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Postpone important family discussions until tomorrow. Family members, especially parents and authority figures are indecisive and possibly confusing.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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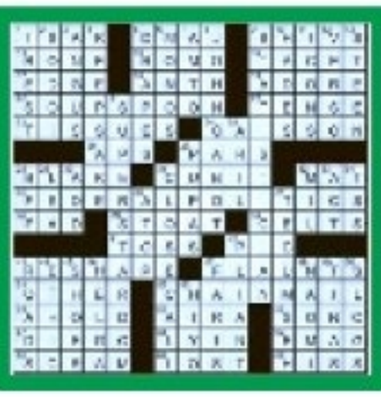
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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6	9	4	2	3	7	8	1	5
2	1	5	4	8	9	6	3	7
1	8	9	7	6	4	3	5	2
4	7	6	3	5	2	9	8	1
3	5	2	8	9	1	4	7	6

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